

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 542

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CZ, US.

SUBJECT: CARROLL BROWN VISIT

1. VISIT OF CARROLL BROWN OF EE HAD BEEN HIGHLY USEFUL FOR EMBASSY, NOT ONLY TO GET BETTER GRASP OF CURRENT WASHINGTON SCENE BUT ALSO TO GIVE OFFICIAL CZECHOSLOVAK CONTACTS BETTER INSIGHTS AS TO HOW THINGS LOOK FROM STATE DEPARTMENT.

2. BESIDES BRIEFINGS FOR EMBASSY STAFF, BROWN CALLED ON ZANTOVSKY (HEAD SIXTH DEPT MFA) AND ON KELLER (DEPUTY DEPARTMENT HEAD AT MIN FORN TRADE). ZANTOVSKY AND OTHER REPS OF MFA AND MFT ALSO CAME TO CHARGE'S FOR GOOD DISCUSSION EVENING MARCH 12.

3. NO NEW POSITIONS WERE EXPOSED ON EITHER SIDE, BUT ZANTOVSKY TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE KNOWN CZECH POSITIONS. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, HE WAS AT SOME PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT DESPITE DISAPPOINTMENT OVER LONG-GRAVEL AMENDMENT AND TRADE BILL, DOORS WERE NOT SHUT AND GOC WAS HOPING THAT WAYS WOULD BE FOUND TO MOVE FORWARD. BROWN DID NOT ENCOURAGE OPTIMISM AS TO ANY EARLY MOVEMENT, BUT STRESSED NEED TO FIND OTHER WAYS TO CONTINUE COOPERATION WHILE CENTRAL PROBLEMS WERE BEING STUDIED. HE EXPLAINED THAT WHOLE COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH TRADE BILL WERE BEING STUDIED NOW VERY CAREFULLY AND DELIBERATELY IN WASHINGTON.

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4. IN THIS CONTEXT ZANTOVSKY NOTED SEVERAL ONGOING THINGS WHICH CZECH SIDE WAS HELPING TO KEEP GOING. HE NOTED AS FIRST EXAMPLE THAT FORWARD MOVEMENT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WAS CONTINUING, WITH GOC BLESSING. (EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER PRESIDENT CERNY RECENTLY HAD LETTER FROM US CHAMBER PRESIDENT SMITH, IS PREPARING REPLY, AND IS CONTEMPLATING FALL TRIP TO US TO SIGN INITIALED INTER-CHAMBER AGREEMENT.) ZANTOVSKY ALSO SAID DAVID ROCKEFELLER HAS INFORMED CZECHS HE HOPED TO VISIT HERE IN UUNE, AND THEY WERE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE SUCH A VISIT. ZANTOVSKY ALSO SAID CZECHS WANTED TO ENCOURAGE A VISIT BY WASHINGTON MAYOR WALTER WASHINGTON. HE ALSO TOOK NOTE OF SEVERAL RELATIVELY MONOR ITEMS, E.G. IN CULTURAL FIELD, WHERE GOC WAS TAKING FAVORABLE STAND. OF COURSE HE ENDED BY SAYING THAT MAJOR STEPS WOULD NATURALLY HAVE TO AWAIT PROGRESS ON THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT.

5. DURING CALL AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE MARCH 13, JOSEF KELLER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TENTH DEPARTMENT (DEVELOPED COUNTRIES), TOLD BROWN THAT ALTHOUGH QUESTION HAD BEEN RAISED ABOUT CONCRETE MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN BY CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT IN AREA OF FOREIGN TRADE TO REGISTER ITS DISPLEASURE OVER LONG-GRAVEL AND JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENTS TO TRADE ACT OF 1974, MOST IDEAS SUGGESTED, E.G., HIGHER IMPORT DUTIES, DIRECT CURBS ON TRADING WITH U.S. FIRMS, ETC., HAD BEEN DISCARDED AS "IMPRACTICAL." MINISTRY'S POLICY REGARDING TRADE WITH U.S. REMAINS EXACTLY AS IT WAS PRIOR TO TRADE ACT. THUS MINISTRY HAS IMPOSED NO "OBJECTIVE" BRAS TO FTO DEALINGS WITH US FIRMS INTERESTED IN TRADING WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA; FACT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT TRADE ACT WAS BLOW TO HOPES FOR EXPANSION OF CZECH/US TRADE AND THIS HAS HAD "SUBJECTIVE" IMPACT ON WILLINGNESS OF MANY CZECH END-USERS AND OTHERS TO CONSIDER SOURCES OF SUPPLY IN US DESPITE MINISTRY'S OPEN DOOR. KELLER STRESSED FACT THAT CSSR RELIES ON LONG-TERM PLANNING (HE MENTIONED "PERSPECTIVE PLAN" REACHING OUT TO 1990) AND ALTHOUGH US TECHNOLOGY HAD EXTREMELY HIGH REPUTATION

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AMON INDUSTRIAL PLANNERS HERE, LATTER WILL BE FORCED TO RELY ON SOURCES IN WESTERN EUROPE TO INCREASING DEGREE UNTIL DIFFICULTIES OVER TRADE ACT ARE SORTED OUT. KELLER SAID HIS MINISTRY WAS IN COMPLETE ACCORD WITH MFA RE NEED TO KEEP ALL DOORS OPEN AND HOPED THAT OFFICIAL US PRESENCE AT MAJOR FAIRS AND OTHER TRADE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD NOT DIMINISH. KELLER FELT DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD

IN PARTICULAR SHOULD BE MAINTAINED IN ANTICIPATION OF
BETTER TIMES. HALF-FACETIOUSLY, HE EXPRESSED HOPE
US/CZECH TRADE RELATIONS COULD BE NORMALIZED BEFORE HE
REACHED MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE IN EIGHT YEARS.
PERRY

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